

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus for printing a print medium with a print head, comprising:

5 a carriage for mounting and moving the print head;
 a lift motor for changing a distance between the print head mounted on the carriage and the print medium; and

 a control unit for controlling a driving of the lift
10 motor and a reciprocal movement of the carriage;

 wherein the control unit checks an operation of the lift motor by detecting a distance of travel of the carriage.

15 2. An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit checks whether the lift motor is normal or not and, if the lift motor is found not normal, annunciates an error state by an
 annunciation means.

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 3. An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, further including a movable range restriction mechanism which changes a scan range of the carriage in a main scan direction according to the distance set by
25 the lift motor.

 4. An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim

3, wherein the control unit detects a movable range of the carriage by driving the carriage and, according to the movable range, detects the distance set by the lift motor.

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5. A printing method for printing a print medium with a print head comprising the steps of:

changing a distance between the print head mounted on a carriage and the print medium by a lift motor;

10 detecting a distance of travel of the carriage by moving the carriage; and

checking an operation of the lift motor according to the distance of travel of the carriage.